Gentlemen,

THE Bills from ☞ *John Booker* ſtuck upon poſts the laſt Lords day, are ſcandalous impudent lyes. *THE BLOODY ALMANACK* was licenſed, and publiſhed as an Abſtract of the Lord *NAPIER*. And *Bookers* Almanack 1643. had theſe very words. *Reade the paraphraſticall Expoſition, and hiſtoricall Application of the learned* Napier *upon the* 14. *of the Revelations.* ---- *I am of the ſame Opinion, with the noble* Napier *in his plain diſcovery, &c.* But this Almanack-maker, is to be credited as much as one of the Countrey Gipſes, by wiſe men.

Decemb. 24. *H. WALKER.*

1647.

THE REMONSTRANCE OF THE COMMONS OF ENGLAND,

To the House of

COMMONS

Assembled in

PARLIAMENT.

Preferred to them by the hands of the

SPEAKER.

Transferred 1814

Printed Anno Dom. 1643.

National Library of Ireland

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

THE REMONSTRANCE Of the Commons of England TO THE House of Commons assembled in Parliament, Preferred to them by the hands of their SPEAKER.

Mr. Speaker:

PRejudge us not, we pray you, *because the title of this paper is a* Remonstrance, *not a* Petition; *the* matter *will be the same, though the* forme differ.

We send this (whatsoever ye will call it) to the Honourable House of Commons, who are the representative Body of the whole Commons of England, and we desire to present it by you, who are the Speaker *of that House.*

The end of our desire is Peace, *and we hope we shall not erre in the way, when we intreate you to be our Mediatour. Master* Speaker, *all that we desire of you, is to deliver this to the House, to procure it to be read, and to obtain as good an answer unto us, as you may.*

And now we addresse our selves to the honourable House it selfe.

WHen this Parliament was called (after severall unhappy breaches of some former) we comforted our selves with a hope of a redresse of all our grievances, and we made choice of you for our *Knights, Citizens,* and *Burgesses,* to serve for us there, and we did put our confidence in you, and we doubt not but you according to our trust without any by-respects, will study onely the peace and good of the Kingdome, and we cannot be yet out of hope, but that ye will performe in the end.

But you must not take it amisse, if as persons grieved, we tell you where our griefes lie. And to prepare our Cure the better, we must desire you to call to your remembrances:

1. That though we are the body of the Commons of England, yet you the true representative.

2. That though we have not so delegated the power to you, as to make you the governors of us and our estates, yet you are in truth our Procurators, to speake and act for us in the great Councell.

3. That in right we ought to have receſſe to thoſe whom we have thus choſen, and to the whole Houſe, and in all cauſes to impart our deſires unto you, and maintaine what you doe for us.

4. That by involving our votes in yours, we make you the repreſentative body.

5. That we never can beleeve that you ſhould ſeeke to imbarke us all in a Civill Warre, to the deſtruction of us and our poſterities.

6. Much leſſe to thinke that by any your votes ye would or could draw us into any Acts of diſloyalty or diſobedience againſt our naturall liege Lord, to whom by the Lawes of God and man, we doe owe and will pay all allegiance and fidelity.

Wherefore we muſt claime this freedome which belongs unto us as free-borne Subjects, and as perſons intereſſed in the good and ſafety of this Kingdome in your proceedings, that ye will ſpeedily take thoſe things into your wiſe and Religious Conſideration, which belong to our peace, and which you out of the deepe ſenſe of our preſent miſeries, and of the apparent ruine of us all (if not timely prevented) doe now offer unto you.

None of which are any new fancies, or dreames of diſtempered braines, but ſuch as have their grounds upon apparent truth, and a cleere evidence.

For firſt we doe profeſſe to all the world that we finde you reſolved with your lives and fortunes to maintaine the true Proteſtant Religion eſtabliſhed by the Lawes in this Church of England. To maintaine our well ſetled government under a Monarchy, according to the knowne Lawes of this Land. To maintaine the juſt liberty of our perſons, and property of our Eſtates, according to the rule of thoſe Lawes. To maintaine the juſt priviledges of Parliament, without which our Lawes can hardly be continued.

And in the aſſerting of theſe, you may beleeve you have the concurrence of all true Proteſtants, for ſuch have beene their daily Proteſtations from time to time.

And for the Kings Majeſties opinion herein, he hath by many declarations, ſolemne proteſtations, and religious vowes, before God and man, declared himſelfe ſo fully and ſo freely, that it is his unchangable Reſolution to live and dy in the maintainance of all theſe; that wee hold our ſelves bounden in reverence to his perſon, and in Chriſtianity, to beleeve that he will faithfully perform his word with his people.

And we have this further aſſurance therof, in that he hath deſcended ſo low from his Throne, as to acknowledge ſome errours which have ſlipt him in his by-paſt government, and to undertake not to give way to the like hereafter.

We wiſh with all our hearts, that thoſe ill counſellours about him, would with the ſame ingenuity acknowledge their errours alſo, and amend them: ſo might we ſoone (by Gods bleſſing) have our peace reſtored again, and by your induſtries made a happy Nation.

Let us then cleerely and freely expreſſe in what things we finde our ſelves grieved, which have beene followed by ill affected people with great eagerneſſe.

The particulars are theſe.

1. That under the colour of advancing the true Proteſtant Religion, incouragement is given to Papiſts, and all maner of Sectaries, which multiply in every corner; which muſt be reformed, or our true Religion is loſt.

2. Under the pretence of hatred of Schiſme, (which we alſo deteſt) the very overthrow of Proteſtant Religion is ſought: but let the Lawes againſt Papiſts and Sectaries (the two extreames) be put in due execution, we ſhall thanke you for it.

3. Under the colour of Eccleſiaſticall Orders (the deſtruction of the Law) no heynous crimes, inquirable by Law, as Adultery, Inceſt, &c. are puniſhed: No Popery or Schiſme reformed: No Church ſetled, or Religion eſtabliſht.

4. We conceive that there can be no reforming of the Church government, except yee take away the function, and very being of Prelats and their Aſſiſtants, the Deans and Chap-

ters, ſo to erect able and Religious learned men, to the encouragements of Gods people: In the name of God let the abuſes be taken away, but not the good uſes alſo.

5. For the rectifying of matters amiſſe in Church Diſcipline, and ſome things in Doctrine alſo, (as is intended) an Aſſembly of Divines is propounded to be convocated and conſulted with, the matter is right, and we pray God to perfect it, ſo that we may not loſe the benefit of the ſubſtance for the errours in the circumſtance; which is, That in this Convocation the Divines are nominated by you who can beſt judge of their abilities (which is the legall way) the greateſt part of thoſe who are named, are knowne to be perſons well diſpoſed to the peace of the Church, and haters of Popery and Innovation, you your ſelves (being the higheſt Court) are to be the only Judges of what ſhall be propounded, and what determined; the Divines but your aſſiſtants: And we ſhall be happy if this may be a perpetuall Synod.

6. Under the colour of freedome of preaching, ſeditious Sermons are preached daily, who traduce the Kings ſacred Perſon, ſlander His high Court of Parliament, and in expreſſe terms encourage the maintaining and continuing of this unnaturall and unchriſtian civill War, and yet none are puniſhed for it, which makes us feare that this is, and long hath beene made by ſome to be the principall engine to kindle this fire of hell, to the juſt ſcandall of all good men, and ſlander of our Religion, this doctrine comming ſo cloſe to that of the Jeſuites.

7. And divers worthy, learned and painfull Preachers have beene ſcandalized for delivering their conſcience freely and religiouſly, and preaching obedience to their Soveraign King, and the high Court of Parliament. Theſe things we obſerve unto you, as tending mainly againſt the maintaining and propagation of the true Proteſtant Religion.

Touching that part which concerneth the maintaining of the Laws, we ſhall obſerve alſo ſome things unto you, wherein the practiſe of malignants differs much from their profeſſions: a prepoſterous way to perſwade us, or any other by-ſtanders.

1. They preſume to withdraw the King from his great Councell, and to raiſe a war againſt them, none ever yet daring to aſſume to themſelves ſuch power, nor did former ages dare to undertake any ſuch thing, but they.

2. They make their owne will to be as Laws, and compell them to be obſerved, and with a ſtricter hand to plunder and pillage the Kings Subjects, but have not, nor ever had the force of Lawes untill violence forced it.

3. And for their owne obſervation of the Lawes of the Land, they take themſelves to be ſo farre above the reach of them, that by their violence they will admit of no Law or Juſtice.

4. They force the Commiſſion of Aray into ſuch hands as they pleaſe, and this without the King and Parliament.

5. They poſſeſſe themſelves of the Navy Royall, and appoint Admiralls and other Officers by Sea, without the King and Parliament, and uſe thoſe Ships againſt them.

6. They take the Caſtles, forts and Ports, the places of greateſt ſtrength in the Kingdome, and keep them againſt the King and Parliament, and theſe three laſt actions appeare to us to have beene done by deſigne, for

7. The pretence at firſt was for the preſervation of the Kings Perſon from the conſpiracies of the City of London; but when none appeared in many monthes, (and we now beleeve none ſuch in truth ever were) a warre for the King againſt the Parliament, was raiſed for the preſervation of the King.

8. And thoſe who refuſe to joyne in this warre with them or to contribute unto it, with giving or lending of money, horſe, armes, &c: they have pillaged, plundred and ſlaine many of them; and although we ſee not how it can be leſſe then Treaſon againſt the King and Parliament to joyne with them therein.

9. But to all thoſe who are Commanders or Officers of their Army, they give large

and even profuse entertainments and rewards; but out of the poore Countries purse, will give them little thankes for it. Thus much may suffice to give a taste how the Lawes are, and are likely to be maintained in the course we are now in.

And for the liberty of our persons, and Propriety of our Estates, we shall say a little in the next place, and by a few particulars judge what we may hope for therein.

1. They waste the Kings Treasure, and rob and spoile his people and revenue, and all these for his owne service; and if any attend his Parliament, or assist them, they are condemned Rebells and Traitors.

2. They have by messages endeavoured to perswade our brethren of Scotland to joyne with them in their unnaturall war against the Parliament.

3. They condemne the Rebells in Ireland (and that very justly) for their horrid rebellion there, and yet themselves doe greater, and more horrid acts of barbarous hostility in England, and when they have been charged with it, they would excuse it by saying, that it was not their fault, but the fault of the Parliament, that they went themselves in person into the battell, which they did with that magnamity and courage, as will adde to their honour, and their enemies shame whilst the world endureth. Thus their actions is become odious to God and Man, and their excuse for it ridiculous.

4. And as if they had shaken off all subjection, and themselves become a State independant, they have treated by their Agents with forreigne States: such an usurpation as was never yet attempted in this Kingdome.

5. They cause their owne fallacies to be printed: But any thing which may truly informe and disabuse the people, they deride and scorne.

6. That aid which should be dispatched for Ireland to reduce the Rebells there, they have from time to time diverted, by maintaining this unnaturall war in England, so they doe visibly lose the Kingdome of Ireland, that they may be the better enabled to lose the Kingdome of England also.

7. They have shewed themselves adverse from peace, lest by a free treaty a peace might ensue, and their hopes be blasted.

And lest the subject should be brought to ruine by this unnaturall war, these things ye have done for the Kingdome,

1. Ye have made an Ordinance that the twentieth part of mens estates must be paid towards the defence of the Kingdome herein, and ye appoint those who shall value that twentieth part, ye take not the tenth part, of the one halfe, or more, as the Cavaliers have done; and for the levying of it, ye ordaine your Collectors shall distraine for the sum assessed, and sell the distresse; the persons of these notable offenders are to be imprisoned, whereby great malignants are knowne.

2. But lest this should not have the colour of Law sufficient, ye have sufficiently cleared it to all the world, who being cast into a necessity by the malice of malignants making an impious war against the King and Parliament, and then out of that necessity they compell their fellow-subjects (who abominate the war) to maintaine it.

3. And ye have yet a surer way; where ye understand there be any Malignants that disturb the peace of the Kingdome, ye apprehend them to judge them, and take execution upon them, and all this according to Law.

4. You fight for the honour of the King, the liberty of the Subject, and for the Gospel.

5. Ye have endeavoured to bring to triall such who have beene petitioned against for their crime and offences proved against them.

6. And others ye have relieved the juſt wants of the Proteſtant ſubjects, and God be praiſed, the way is open to petition to him in heaven, and he will heare us in his good time for you.

Laſtly, for your priviledges of Parliament.

1. Firſt, we ought not indeed to diſpute them, ye alone are the Judges of them, in former ages thoſe have not beene judged by any: ye are the proper Judges, and of the elections of your Members, &c.

2. Yet theſe we conceive are to be thus confined, that every Member of your Houſe hath and ought to have free liberty to deliver his opinion upon any emergent occaſion, and not be committed as ſome have been for ſpeaking freely againſt the ſenſe of evill Counſell.

3. The priviledges of your Houſe were not in former times excepted againſt or queſtioned, and we know that no Member of the Houſe, nor any others imployed by you ſhould bee queſtioned but in Parliament, or at leaſt by leave of the Houſe.

4. Ye the Committees, Members of your Houſe, what thoſe few conclude upon, is ſummarily reported to the Houſe, and that not taken upon truſt by an implicite faith of all the reſt, but there againe examined.

5. None of the preſent Members of your Houſe have had their elections juſtly queſtioned, but if they incline not to thoſe poſitions which malignants lay down to themſelves to uphold and continue war againſt the Parliament, they offer them abuſes unſupportable.

6. When a matter of importance hath beene in debate in the high Court of Parliament you have proceeded in it with great wiſdome and gravity, notwithſtanding the miſchievous plots of malignants.

We doe beleeve ye have many juſt priviledges for the freedome of your perſons for freedome of ſpeech, we beleeve that ye ſeek no priviledge to take the Scepter into your hands, to levie war againſt your King, and to compell others to joyne with you in ſo execrable an act, but to bring Papiſts and Delinquents to the bar of juſtice. We wiſh from our hearts that all theſe Obſervations were but fables and fictions, (as we have met with many from ill affected people to amuſe us) but they are all undeniably true; our conditions therefore are moſt miſerable, when thus inſtead of maintaining the true Proteſtant Religion, the Lawes of the Land, the juſt Priviledges of Parliament, they are all of them radically and fundamentally deſtroyed, and that by a company of Papiſts, and Popiſhly affected malignants, whoſe duties and profeſſions are daily to the contrary: and if any thing can be added to our miſery, it is this that wee cannot ſee through the time, when this intolerable yoke of ſlavery which they put upon our fellow ſubjects, ſhall have an end, ſeeing by the art of a few, they have contrived plots, whereby they have perfidiouſly over-reached the King and Parliament, to make this preſent Parliament to be overthrowne, that ſo an arbitrary power and tyranny over the Kingdome, might be perpetuated.

Yet one thing more may be added to our unhappineſſe.

Finiſſe felices, We were lately a happy people, and are now on a ſudden reduced to ſuch a depth of unhappineſſe, that we are made a ſpectacle to the whole world, and the very object of their ſcorne: For,

We are (before we are aware) caſt into a Warre, a civill Warre, an irreligious and barbarous war againſt the King and Parliament.

We are put into an inevitable way of poverty.

We being waſted in all quarters and corners of the Kingdome one by another.

By loſing our commerce at home, it being intercepted by the Armies, and almoſt no debt paid, occaſioned eſpecially by malignants, and ill counſell.